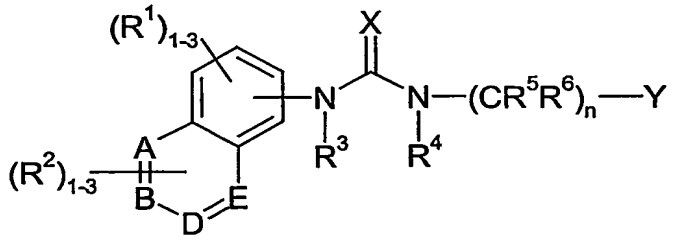
CLAIMS

1. A compound of formula (I):



(I)

wherein

A, B, D and E are each C or N with the proviso that one or more are N;

R^1 and R^2 are each independently hydrogen, halogen, hydroxy, C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{2-6}alkenyl, C_{2-6}alkynyl, haloC_{1-6}alkyl, hydroxyC_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-6}alkoxy, haloC_{1-6}alkoxy, hydroxyC_{1-6}alkoxy, C_{3-7}cycloalkyl, C_{3-5}cycloalkylC_{1-4}alkyl, NR^7R^8, carboxy, esterified carboxy, C_{1-6}alkyl substituted with a group selected from NR^7R^8, carboxy and esterified carboxy, or C_{1-6}alkoxy substituted with a group selected from NR^7R^8, carboxy and esterified carboxy;

R^3 and R^4 are each independently hydrogen, C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{2-6}alkenyl or C_{2-6}alkynyl;

R^5 and R^6 are, at each occurrence, independently hydrogen, C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{2-6}alkenyl, C_{2-6}alkynyl, C_{1-6}alkoxy, C_{1-6}acyloxy, carboxy, esterified carboxy, $CONR^7R^8$, SO_2R^7, $SO_2NR^7R^8$, aryl, heteroaryl, heterocyclyl, or C_{1-6}alkyl substituted with a group selected from hydroxy, C_{1-6}alkoxy, C_{1-6}acyloxy, carboxy, esterified carboxy, NR^7R^8, $CONR^7R^8$, SR^7, SO_2R^7, $SO_2NR^7R^8$, aryl, heteroaryl and heterocyclyl;

or R^5 and R^6 and the carbon atom to which they are attached together form a carbocyclic ring of 3 to 6 carbon atoms;

R^7 and R^8 are, at each occurrence, independently hydrogen, C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{2-6}alkenyl, C_{2-6}alkynyl, C_{3-7}cycloalkyl or fluoroC_{1-6}alkyl;

or R^7 and R^8 and the nitrogen atom to which they are attached together form a heteroaliphatic ring of 4 to 7 ring atoms, optionally substituted by one or two groups selected from hydroxy or C_{1-4}alkoxy, which ring may optionally contain as one of the said ring atoms an oxygen or a sulfur atom, a group S(O) or $S(O)_2$, or a second nitrogen atom which will be part of a NH or NR^a moiety where R^a is C_{1-4}alkyl optionally substituted by hydroxy or C_{1-4}alkoxy;

X is an oxygen or sulfur atom or the group =NCN;
Y is an aryl, heteroaryl, carbocyclyl or fused-carbocyclyl group; and
n is either zero or an integer from 1 to 3;
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, N-oxide or a prodrug thereof.

2. A compound according to claim 1 in which X is O.

3. A compound according to claim 1 or 2 in which R^3 and R^4 are hydrogen.

4. A compound according to claim 1, 2 or 3 in which B is nitrogen and A, D and E are carbon.

5. A compound according to any preceding claim in which Y is an aryl group selected from unsubstituted phenyl or naphthyl and phenyl or naphthyl substituted by one or two substituents selected from halogen, C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-4}alkoxy, haloC_{1-4}alkyl, haloC_{1-4}alkoxy, phenyl, cyano, nitro, pyrazolyl, di(C_{1-6}alkyl)amino, phenoxy, -OCH_2O- and C_{1-6}alkylcarbonyl; or a heteroaryl group selected from pyridyl, thiazolyl, isoxazolyl, oxadiazolyl and pyrazolyl wherein each heteroaryl group is optionally substituted with one or two substituents selected from C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-4}alkoxy, haloC_{1-4}alkyl, haloC_{1-4}alkoxy, unsubstituted heteroaryl or phenyl which may be substituted by C_{1-6}alkyl or halogen; or a carbocyclyl group which is a C_{5-7}cycloalkyl radical that is unsubstituted or substituted by a phenyl ring; or a fused-carbocyclyl group which is a C_{5-7}cycloalkyl radical that is fused to a phenyl ring.

6. A compound according to any preceding claim wherein R^5 and R^6 each independently represent a hydrogen atom or a C_{1-4}alkyl or phenyl group.

7. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to any preceding claim or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or N-oxide thereof.

8. A compound according to any one of claims 1 to 6 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or N-oxide thereof for use in a method of treatment of the human or animal body by therapy.

9. Use of a compound according to any one of claims 1 to 6 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or N-oxide thereof for use in the manufacture of a medicament for treating diseases and conditions in which pain and/or inflammation predominates.

10. A method of treating a subject suffering from a disease or condition in which pain and/or inflammation predominates which comprises administering to that subject a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or N-oxide thereof.